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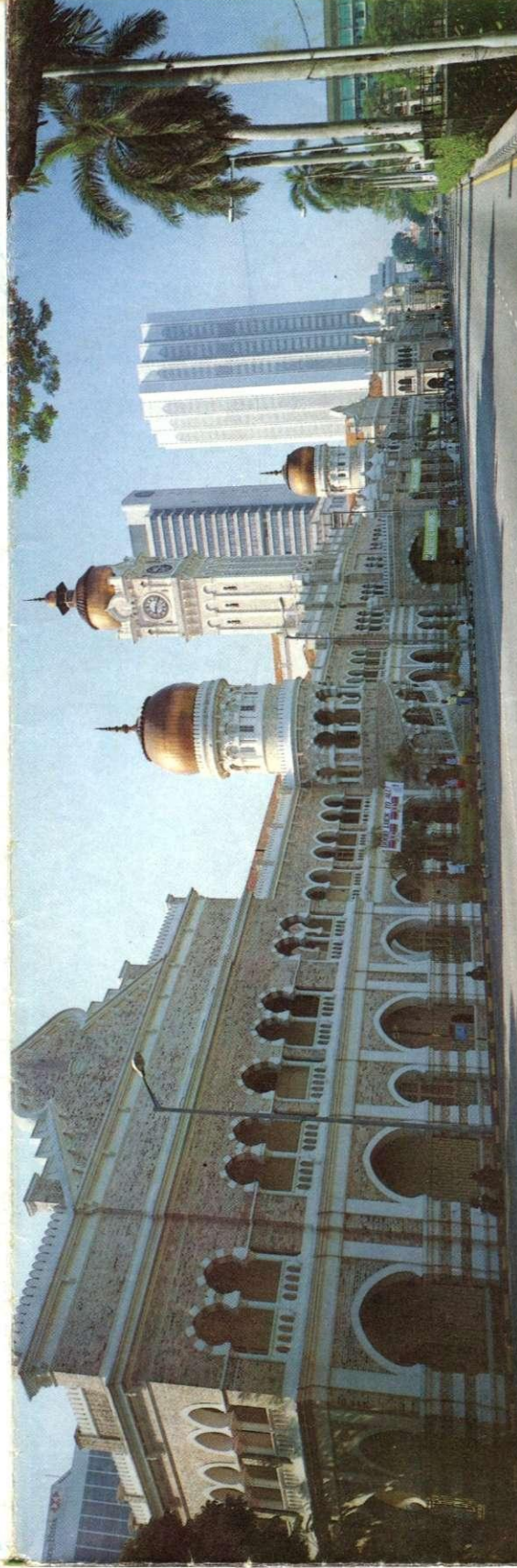
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The majestic Sultan Abdul Samud Building in Kuala Lumpur

(SEDC) have also been set up to speed up industrialisation and the implementation of the New Economic Policy (NEP).

Transportation is a fast-growing industry, with Malaysian Airline System (MAS) leading the field

Centuries of tin-mining



in air services. Tourism is yet another growing and important industry and a special agency, the Tourist Development Corporation (TDC), has been set up to promote tourism. TDC has offices in Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney, Frankfurt, London and Los Angeles.

EDUCATION

All schools in Malaysia follow a common curriculum and syllabus in order to develop a common identity and outlook among students of different backgrounds and to promote national integration.

The medium of instruction in all schools is Bahasa Malaysia with English as the compulsory second language. The Malaysian Education system comprises a comprehensive range of institutions including secondary and vocational schools, polytechnics, teacher training colleges, institutes of technology and universities.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Malaysia maintains close and cordial ties with most nations in the international community. It has 67 diplomatic missions in 57 countries, including those in China, the USSR, the U.S., the U.K. and the major European nations, apart from concurrent accreditations to an additional 34 countries. As of the date of this publication, 77 countries have missions accredited to Malaysia.

The U.N. is represented in Malaysia through the UNDP Regional Office for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, as well as the UNICEF and UNHCR. In addition, specialised agencies of other international organisations such as WHO and FAO also have their offices in Kuala Lumpur.

As an active member of ASEAN, the OIC, the Non-Aligned Movement and the U.N., Malaysia has made her own positive contribution to the search for peaceful solutions to regional and international problems to bring about peace, security, stability and development to the region and the world at large.

MASS MEDIA

There are dozens of newspapers and journals in Bahasa Malaysia, English, Chinese and Tamil. Two TV channels, and a network of radio stations are Government-owned. A third channel, TV3, is operated by a commercial TV station.

RELIGION

The official religion is Islam but freedom of worship is guaranteed. Other accepted religions practised include Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism and Christianity.

PEOPLE, FESTIVALS, SPORTS & RECREATION



A diversity of races and communities make up Malaysia's 15.6 million people. The main groups are: the Malays, who form the majority and practice Islam, the Chinese



Oil-rig in the South China Sea



Oil palm at its maturity



Rajah Brooke

National parks have been established facilities have been provided to help visitors get the feel of the tropical forest and to observe Malaysian birds, animals and other jungle life in their natural habitat.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Blessed with eternal summer; an incredibly rich range of flora and fauna, and a diverse, multi-racial culture, Malaysia offers the visitor the delights of a tropical holiday with all the comforts of home.

For your holiday in Malaysia:

Pick any of the numerous island hideaways such as Langkawi, Pangkor, Tioman or Rawa, with their sun-splashed beaches, clear waters and friendly people.

Visit Taman Negara, if you are lucky, you will be able to see tapirs and other tropical animals in their natural habitat. Or pit your skills against Southeast Asia's highest mountain in Kinabalu National Park in Sabah.

Stay cool on one of Malaysia's many hill resorts or lose yourself in Sarawak's Niah Caves. They're so huge that the Great Cave alone covers an area as large as 13 soccer fields.

Take a slow journey up the East Coast, where the palm-fringed beaches are long, white and alluring where giant leatherback turtles lay their eggs by night, and where picturesque kampungs preserve a way of life charming in its simplicity. This is the home of local handicraft, kite-flying and top-spinning.

Immerse yourself in the history and culture of Melaka (where the Portuguese and the Dutch have left their imprint) or Penang (the site of the first English base in Malaya) or Kuching (where once reigned the Brooke family).

Historic buildings river safaris, snake temples, scuba diving, orang utans, golf, bird-watching, sailing, handicraft or just sun and surf – you'll find it all in Malaysia.



Exotic Chinatown

Following is a brief (and by no means complete) list of tourist attractions in Malaysia:



Drums to usher in the festival

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PEOPLE, FESTIVALS, SPORTS & RECREATION



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Hari Raya Puasa, to mark the end of the fasting month (Ramadan).
Chinese New Year.
Deepavali (the Hindu festival of lights).
Christmas.

Not to be missed is the Hindu festival of Thaipusam, the Chinese Mooncake Festival, and the numerous harvest festivals in Sabah and Sarawak.

Sports and sporting events command a very large following among Malaysians of all ages. Soccer enjoys a tremendous popularity. Also popular is tennis, golf, squash and motor racing. Sea sports, such as wind-surfing and sailing, are also gaining popularity, and traditional Malaysian pastimes such as *sepak takraw*, giant top spinning and kite flying are also pursued. And each day sees new enthusiasts taking part in jogging and walking.

THE ARTS

Every community, has its own traditional dances and dramas. Since the attaining of independence in 1957, Malay art forms have been enjoying a resurgence – and now constitute the main ingredient of a slowly evolving Malaysian Culture. More and more, Malaysian artists and artistes are reaching back into the rich culture of the Malays, Chinese, Indians and other indigenous people of Malaysia for new motifs and themes in dance, drama, painting and sculpture.

FLORA & FAUNA

Malaysia's warm tropical climate allows for luxuriant rain forest, and a rich collection of insect life, birds and animals. Some of the forests are believed to have been untouched for millions of years. About 15,000 species of trees, flowers and other plant life have been recorded, including the brilliant Hibiscus (Malaysia's National Flower), the rare and mysterious insect – eating Pitcher plant, and a colourful range of orchids.

Below the ever-green and impenetrable canopy of jungle lives a wide variety of wildlife – tigers, elephants, seladang (of the ox family) rhinos, orang utan, monkeys, wild boar and deer. Birds of brilliant plumage flit from branch to branch co-existing with pythons, cobras and squirrels.



Drums to usher in the festival

General

Kuala Lumpur (Moorish architecture, Tudor-style buildings, modern metropolis); Melaka (Portuguese and Dutch buildings); Penang (Batu Feringgi, Penang Hill and Georgetown); Johor Bahru – Southern Gateway; Kuantan, Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu (Peaceful East Coast towns, fishing ports and handicrafts); Kuching (Seat of Brooke dynasty; museum collection of Bornean archaeological and ethnological materials); Kota Kinabalu (Sea-side city, Tanjong Aru and onwards to Mt. Kinabalu and Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary).

Hill Resorts

Penang Hill (ride the funicular train); Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hill); Fraser's Hill; Cameron Highlands (flowers, vegetables and tea plantations in the hills); Genting Highlands (hotel, casino and public amusement park).

Islands & Beaches

Langkawi Island; Penang Island; Pangkor Island; Tanjong Aru, Kota Kinabalu; Damai Beach, Santubong; East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia (The East Coast boasts of almost 700 km of lovely, unspoilt beaches, including the beaches of Rantau Abang in Terengganu where the giant leatherback turtles return between May and September every year to lay their eggs. Tourist facilities are available at all major East Coast towns, such as Kota Bharu, Kuantan and Desaru. In addition, there are many lovely islands, fringed by sandy beaches amidst crystal-clear waters, such as Tioman, Rawa, Kapas and Perhentian.)

National Parks

Taman Negara, Peninsular Malaysia, Bako National Park, Niah Caves, Sarawak, Kinabalu National Park and Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary.



Exploring the National Park

GETTING IN

Visitors must be in possession of a valid passport or other internationally recognised document endorsed for travel in Malaysia. All certificate of identity (C.I.) holders must obtain a visa before entering Malaysia.

Visa: Commonwealth citizens, (except Indian nationals) British Protected persons or citizens of the Republic of Ireland and citizens of Switzerland, Netherlands, San

Marino and Lichtenstein do not need a visa to enter Malaysia. United States citizens do not require a visa for social, business visits and student pass. Citizens of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Tunisia and West Germany do not require a visa for social or business visit not exceeding three months.

One Month Visa Free Visit: Citizens of ASEAN countries do not need a visa for a visit not exceeding one month.



The beach on Pulau Kapas

German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Russia and Yugoslavia are allowed to enter Malaysia for a period of up to seven days for social and business visits only.

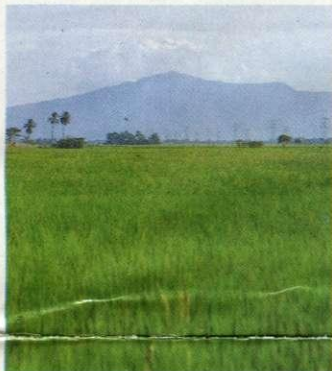
(The above entry regulations are subject to changes.)

Health: Vaccination is required in respect of yellow fever under certain conditions.

Customs: Items such as cameras, watches, pens, portable radio cassette players, perfume, cosmetics and lighters are duty free in Malaysia. Visitors bringing in dutiable goods may have to pay a deposit for temporary importation, refundable on departure. This is normally up to 50% of the value. Please carry receipt of purchase and please obtain an official receipt for any tax or deposit paid.

GETTING AROUND

More than 23 international airlines, including Malaysian Airline System (MAS) fly in and out of Malaysia. Besides Kuala Lumpur International Airport, airports in Penang, Kuantan, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu cater for regional and international flights. MAS provides special fares for travel within Malaysia. Malayan Railways also offers a cheap way of seeing the country through its Railpass, which is valid for up to 30 days. Train services extend from Singapore to Padang Besar at the Thai border linking up with Thai Railways up to Bangkok in Thailand.



Rice-field in the North

Motoring is the best way of seeing Malaysia (Driving is on the left hand side of the road and foreigners must have an international driving licence to drive). Car rental is available in all major towns and petrol costs 92 sen a litre. Road maps can be bought at most

Fourteen Day Visa Free Visit: Transit and non-transit tourists are eligible for the fourteen day visa free visit to Malaysia **except** those from Albania, Chinese People's Republic, India, Israel, Kampuchea, Laos, Mongolia, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Republic of Transkei, South Africa, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Seven Day Visa Free Visit: Citizens of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia,

German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Russia and Yugoslavia are allowed to enter Malaysia for a period of up to seven days for social and business visits only.

Citizens of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia,

SHOPPING

In shopping, as in the case of food, the visitor has a choice of everything from roadside stalls selling inexpensive souvenirs and handicraft to exclusive department stores. Bargaining is almost always expected unless fixed prices are displayed.



A section of Malaysian handicrafts

The islands of Labuan and Langkawi are duty free. In addition, duty-free shopping is also possible at Kuala Lumpur and Penang airports and city centres. Cameras, pens, watches, cosmetics, perfume and electronic goods are duty-free in Malaysia. If you are looking for something uniquely Malaysian you couldn't go wrong with pewterware, *songket*, batik, jewellery, silverware, brassware or pottery.

MISCELLANEOUS

Monetary Transactions

There are more than 40 commercial banks operating in Malaysia. Travellers cheques are accepted by all banks, hotels and large department stores, and most large establishments will also accept all internationally-known credit cards. In all major cities, automatic teller machines have become a part of city life.

Health

Health services are easily available in every town in the form of government-run hospitals, specialist centres (in the larger towns) and private clinics, some of which are open 24 hours.

Water

It is generally safe to drink water straight from the tap.

Security

Malaysia is a safe country. Cities are brightly lit from dusk to dawn and police posts can be found in every populated area. Please feel free to make enquiries at these posts.



The break of dawn in the East Coast



Morning buzz in the market ground

Telephone



Rice-field in the North

Langkawi, Penang and Labuan. Visitors are advised to rely on the regular, licensed ferry services at all times.

Motoring is the best way of seeing Malaysia (Driving is on the left hand side of the road and foreigners must have an international driving licence to drive). Car rental is available in all major towns and petrol costs 92 sen a litre. Road maps can be bought at most petrol stations. For your guidance, the following are some local traffic signs and their English equivalents:

AWAS – CAUTION
IKUT KIRI – KEEP LEFT
KURANGKAN LAJU – SLOW DOWN
JALAN SEHALA – ONE WAY STREET

UTARA – NORTH
SELATAN – SOUTH
TIMUR – EAST
BARAT – WEST

EATING OUT

Multi-racial Malaysia offers a mouth-watering range of food – spicy Malay dishes, a seemingly endless variety of Chinese food, exotic cuisine from North and South India, as well as Nyonya and Portuguese Food.

European cuisine is easily available. In addition international fast food chains operate in the major towns side by side with thousands of roadside stalls and food bazaars offering everything from chicken chop to fried noodles to delicious *satay*. Tropical fruit such as *durian* (you'll love it or hate it), *ciku*, mangosteen, *rambutan*, guavas, watermelons, papayas and bananas are also available.



Sampling steam-boat in the open

WHERE TO STAY

Malaysia has something to suit every tourist budget – from simple local lodging houses to international class hotels such as Hilton, Regent, Ming Court, Hyatt, Shangri-La and the Pan Pacific. The Malaysian Youth Hostel Association operates about a dozen hostels in the main towns. And many of the island resorts offer sophisticated hotel rooms as well as simple, kampung-style accommodation for the budget-conscious traveller. Campsites and caravan parks are yet to be developed in Malaysia. The bed and breakfast concept has not caught up in Malaysia.



Morning buzz in the market ground

Telephone

Public telephones are easily available. Local calls cost 10 sen. For most public phones, remember to press the release button once the person you call responds.

Business Hours

Department stores/supermarkets are usually open from 10 am to 10 pm and shops from 9 am to 7 pm. In Kuala Lumpur, there are several 24-hour stores and in most major towns, you can find 24-hour petrol stations.

A Thursday-Friday weekend is observed in Johor, Terengganu, Kelantan, Kedah and Perlis. Other states observe a Saturday – Sunday weekend. Government offices in all states are open from 8 am to 4.15 pm on weekdays and to 12.45 pm on the sixth day.

What To Wear

Light clothing all year round. For more formal occasion: Jacket and tie/Long-sleeve batik for men and dresses for women.

Budget Guide

The following is a general guide on hotel rates and meals:

Hotel accommodation (double room)	M\$	US\$
International hotel	From 120.00	48.30
Budget hotel	From 35.00	14.10

Meals	M\$	US\$
Lunch: Hotel	18.00	7.20
Modest Local restaurant	10.00	4.00
Local stall	4.00	1.60

Dinner: Hotel	20.00	8.00
Modest Local restaurant	12.00	4.80
Local stall	4.00	1.60

(A 5% government tax and 10% service charge is added to hotel and restaurant meals.)

US\$1.00 = M\$2.485 The exchange rate quoted above is indicative only and is subject to change

Bahasa Malaysia is quite easy to pick up. Here are a few sample expressions:

Go up	– Naik	Behind	– Belakang
Go down	– Turun	I/Me	– Saya
Turn	– Belok	You	– Anda, awak
Right	– Kanan	Mr, Miss, Mrs	– Encik, Cik, Puan
Left	– Kiri	How much?	– Berapa harganya?
Front	– Hadapan	Where?	– Di mana?

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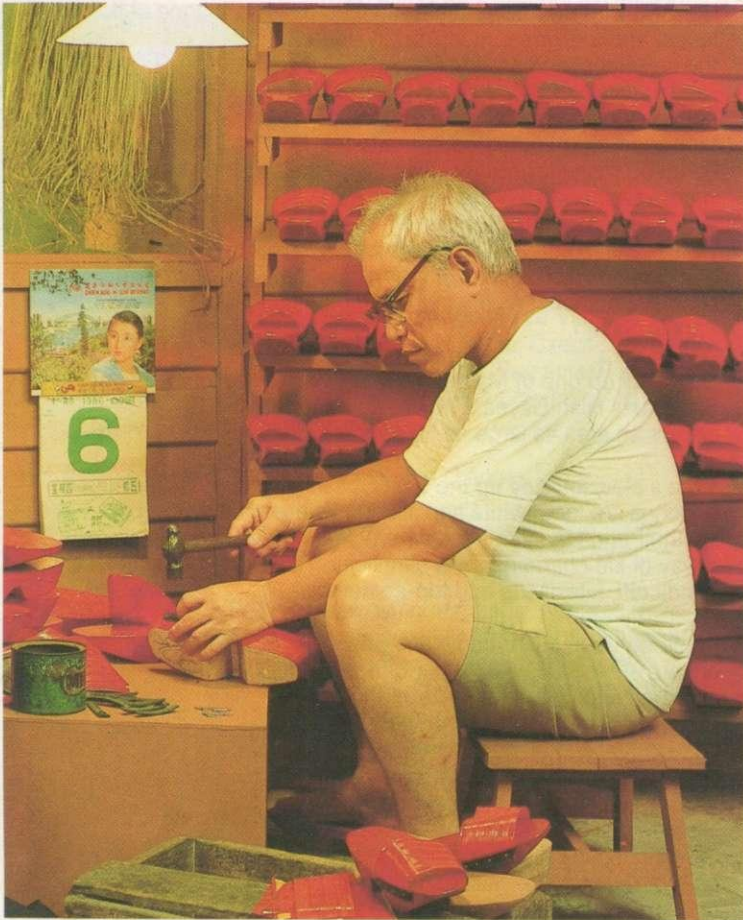
The Penang Bridge.



The friendly neighbourhood bread vendor.



Welcome to...



Clog-making, a vanishing trade



Kite-flying, a colourful post-harvest pastime.



Mount K

A crafts

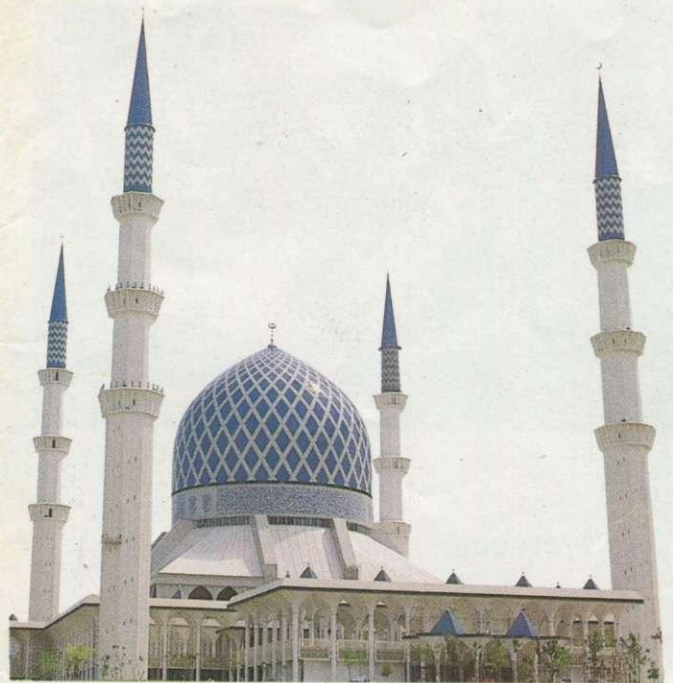




Mount Kinabalu as viewed from the National Park.



A craftsman at work in the making of a top.



The Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque.



Batik, an art form, fast developing into a national symbol.



Orang Utan, nicknamed the 'Wild man of Borneo'.





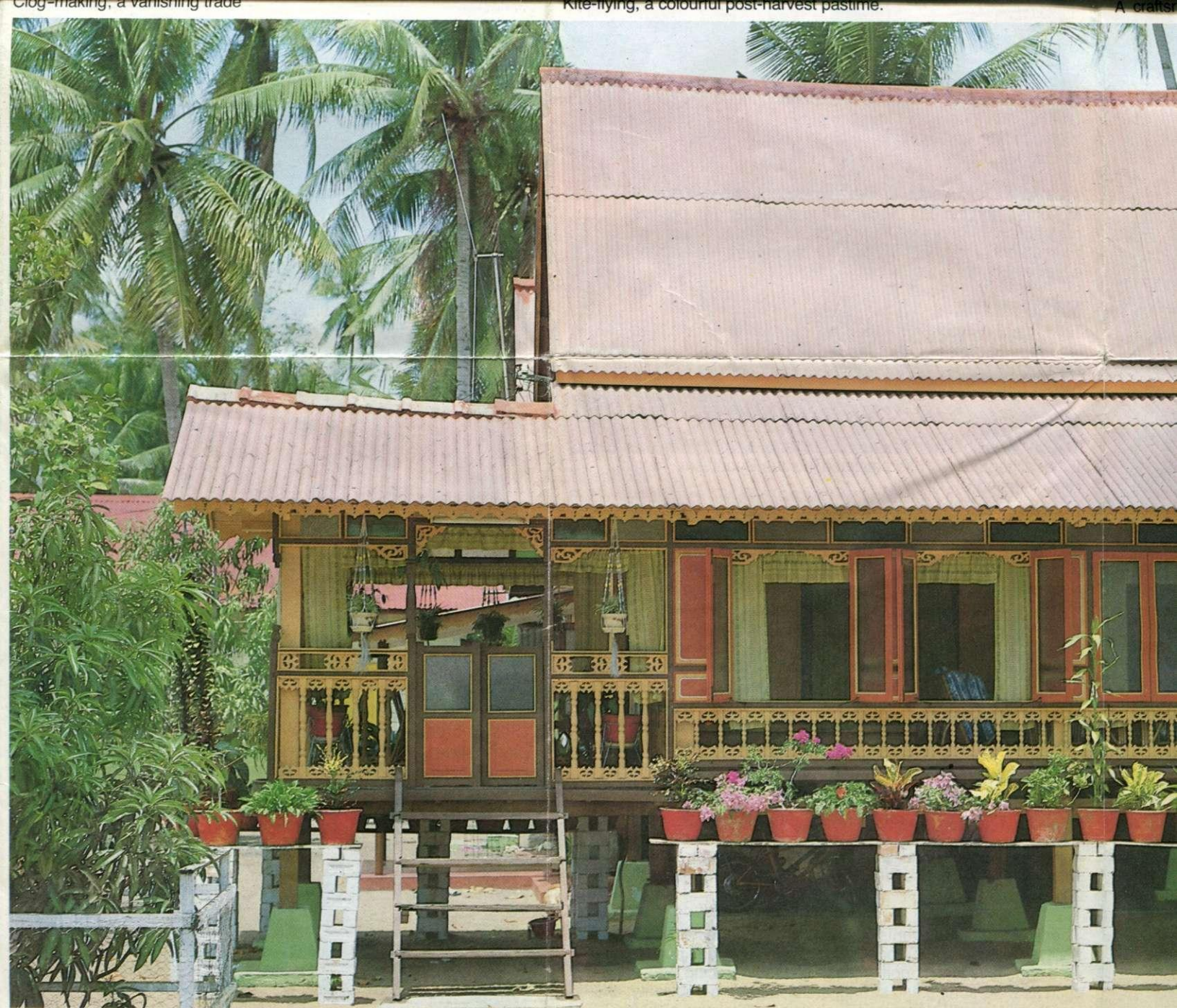
The friendly neighbourhood bread vendor.



A selection of exotic Malaysian fruits.



Satay, a tasty Malaysian of barbecued meat.

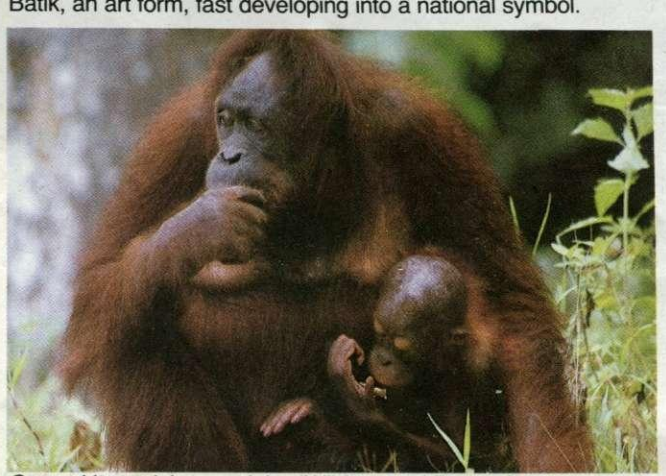


Malaya

A craftsman at work in the making of a top.



A traditional kampung (village) house.



Orang Utan, nicknamed the 'Wild man of Borneo'.



Celebrating the Gawai (harvest festival).



The giant leatherback turtle – a regular visitor to East Coast, Malaysia.

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LOCATION

Situated in Southeast Asia just north of the Equator. To the south is Singapore and Indonesia, to the north Thailand, and to the East lies the Philippines.

AREA

330,434 sq. km. covering two regions – Peninsular Malaysia (which is the southernmost tip of mainland Asia), and the states of Sabah and Sarawak (on Borneo Island).

POPULATION

15.6 million people (12.9 million in Peninsular Malaysia and 2.7 million in Sabah and Sarawak) made up mostly of Malays, Chinese, Indians, and the indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak.

LANGUAGE

Official language : Bahasa Malaysia (Malay).
Other languages : English (widely used all over the country), Chinese and Tamil.

CLIMATE

Sunny, hot and humid all year round. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C, annual rainfall from 2000 cm to 2500 cm. It can rain at any time in Malaysia but generally it falls mainly in the afternoons. Wet season: November/February (East Coast, Sabah/Sarawak). August/September (West Coast).

CURRENCY

Malaysian Ringgit (Dollar), divided into 100 sen. (M\$1 = US\$0.4)

TIME

8 hours ahead of G.M.T. and 16 hours ahead of the U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

FEDERAL CAPITAL

Kuala Lumpur. (45 minutes flying time from Singapore, 2½ hours from Bangkok, and 6 hours from Tokyo)

HISTORY

Because of its strategic position between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, Malaysia has long been a meeting place for traders and travellers from West and East. Hence its history is one of continual interaction with foreign powers and influences.

Hindu-Buddhist influence was strong in the centuries before the coming of Islam. By 1400, when the Malacca Malay Kingdom was at the height of its power, Islam had become a major influence. By 1511, however, Malacca had fallen to the Portuguese. Meanwhile the Dutch had been establishing their influence and presence in Java. By 1641, the Dutch had also taken over Malacca but they in turn lost it to the British who had been slowly consolidating their hold on the Malay states following Francis Light's arrival in Penang in 1786. In 1815 Malacca was in British hands and in 1819, Stamford Raffles founded Singapore. Thereafter, through treaties, relentless political pressure and diplomacy, the British slowly extended their control over all the states of the Malay peninsula.



Of trishaws and Dutch heritage

Sarawak, once part of the Sultan of Brunei's Empire, had been ruled since 1841 by a British adventurer named James Brooke and his descendants. In 1888, Sarawak and North Borneo (Sabah) became British protectorates. By the 1920s, all the states that eventually comprised Malaysia were under British control. The first stirrings of Malaysian nationalism were felt in the 1930s and following the end of World War II, the momentum of nationalism picked up again,

culminating in independence for the Federation of Malaya in 1957 and the formation of Malaysia in 1963.

GOVERNMENT

Parliamentary democracy based on universal suffrage. Malaysia comprises 13 states, nine of which have hereditary Rulers. The Supreme Head of State is the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong* (King) who is elected every five years from among the nine Rulers.

The Head of government is the Prime Minister, who must be a member of the *Dewan Rakyat* (House of Representatives) of Parliament. Parliament itself comprises two Houses : The *Dewan Rakyat*, which is fully elective, and the *Dewan Negara* (Senate) to which members are nominated by H.M. the King from among citizens who have rendered distinguished public service or have achieved distinction in the professions or are representatives of racial minorities or are capable of representing the interests of the aborigines.

As Head of Government, the Prime Minister heads the Cabinet, which is made up of the various Ministers of Government.

Each of the 13 states of Malaysia also has its own Chief Minister or *Menteri Besar*, who is also elected to office, and its own (elected) State Assembly.

ECONOMY

Basically a developing free-enterprise economy based on primary products but steadily undergoing industrialisation. Malaysia is among the world's largest producers of tin, rubber and palm oil. Other major products: Petroleum (the exploration and production of which is carried under the supervision of the national oil corporation, Petronas), timber and pepper. A number of agencies such as Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia (HICOM) and State Economic Development Corporations



Malaysian currency in various denominations



The Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur